

REMARKS

Claims 25, 34, 39, 43, 44, 47-57, 59 and 60 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 26, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, 40-42, 58 and 61 are canceled. Reconsideration based on the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate the Office Action's indication that claims 25, 39, 43, 44, 47-57, 59 and 60 are allowed.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 since the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

I. **PENDING CLAIMS SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF
35 U.S.C. §112, FIRST AND SECOND PARAGRAPHS**

The Office Action rejects claim 61 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, for various informalities. Claim 61 has been canceled. Thus, the rejections are moot.

Withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, and 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

II. **THE CLAIMS DEFINE ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER**

The Office Action rejects claims 26, 30, 31, 33, 34 and 61 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Statutory Invention Registration H1435 to Cherne et al. (hereinafter "Cherne") in

view of U.S. Patent No. 5,920,085 to Han et al. (hereinafter "Han") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,623,155 to Kerber et al. (hereinafter "Kerber"); and claims 35-36, 38, 40-42 and 58 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Cherne in view of Han, Kerber and U.S. Patent No. 5,616,935 to Koyama et al. (hereinafter "Koyama"). Claims 26, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, 40-42, 58 and 61 have been canceled. Thus, the rejections of claims 26, 30, 32, 33, 35, 36, 38, 40-42, 58 and 61 are moot. However, the rejection of claim 34 is respectfully traversed as discussed below.

Claim 34 depends only from independent claim 25, which the Office Action indicates is allowable. Thus, dependent claim 34 is patentable over the applied art for at least the same reasons as claim 25. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

III. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 25, 34, 39, 43, 44, 47-57, 59 and 60 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

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